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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer (CISFEM) is a non-governmental organization working in social development areas and promoting cooperation and integration between groups and institutions. Its Gender Equity and Equality Forum and Venezuelan Women's Human Rights Observatory were founded to strengthen its work. The Observatory Net, comprising 44 organizations is directed by CISFEM, and covers 8 states nationally. Its voluntary work is supported by a number of international institutions, including some United Nations agencies.

II. Contributions to the work of the United Nations

During the period 2005-2008: (a) preparation of Shadow Report of Women's Civil Society was published in Spanish and English in March 2005 on its website www.observatorimujeres.org.ve; (b) participated in thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; (c) organized seminars and workshops in 10 cities during 2006; (d) participated in fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in February 2007; (e) participated in United Nations Development Fund for Women Andean Region Workshops in September 2007 and November 2008; and (f) currently is gathering information and statistical data for second shadow report.

2. National Union of Jurists of Cuba

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization

The National Union of Jurists of Cuba (NUJC), a non-profit, self-financed non-governmental organization of law professionals, with a voluntary membership of more than 19,000, has as its primary aim the scientific-technical and professional development of its members.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

During the period 2005-2009: (a) annually presented written reports at meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva; (b) attended all social regional forums held in Brazil, Bolivia and Guatemala and the World Forum in Kenya in 2008; (c) participated in Summits of the Americas, the Ibero-American Summit and Non-Aligned Movement meetings; (d) worked on issue of the blockade policy of the United States of America and participated in related activities with the Cuban Association of the United Nations; (e) facilitated visits of officials from international organizations, such as the International and Regional Red Cross Committees; (f) organized IVth International Seminar on International Humanitarian Law in 2005 and the Vth International Meeting of Law Professionals in 2009; (g) meetings, seminars and courses with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; (h) participated in regional seminar for the Caribbean on principles and values of international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross Movement, in 2005, in the Dominican Republic; and (i) NUJC and its Society for Computer Law coordinated a project to computerize virtual law libraries in its main office and provincial boards, which was related to the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

B. Cooperation with the United Nations bodies

(a) Cooperated with the American Association of Jurists (AAJ)-International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), as an executive office holder and participant in meetings and congresses, for which it contributed written statements; (b) cooperated with the Inter-American Human Rights Institute in holding a seminar on human rights and environmental law in 2005, in Cuba; (c) contributed to report on racial discrimination.

During 2005: (a) Vth International Conference on Informatics, in February, in Havana; (b) Vth Conference on Environmental Law, in March; (c) Vth International Meeting on Tourism, in May; and (d) UIBA congress, in July; (e) Havana's International Summer School on international public law, in July.

During 2006: (a) International meeting of women jurists, in May; (b) Havana's International Summer School on international public law, in July; and (c) international meeting on foreign investment and integration, in November.

During 2007: (a) VIth Conference on Environmental Law, in March; (b) Havana's International Summer School on international public law; and (c) Vth Seminar-Workshop on International Humanitarian Law, in November.

During 2008: (a) IInd International meeting on women, gender and law, in May; (b) Inter-American Meeting on Labour Law and Social Security, in March; (c) Havana Summer School on international public law, in June and July; (d) VIIth Meeting on Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, in November; and (e) other international conferences on family law, arbitration and mediation.

During the period 2005-2009: (a) NUJC held many bilateral international meetings in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Spain, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); and (b) organized master's, doctoral and post-doctoral degree courses for many universities.

3. International Association of Initiatives of Change

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization

The International Association of Initiatives of Change works to build trust across the world's divides and foster collective responsibility, human dignity, equality and equity. Based in Caux, Switzerland, the Association brings its perspectives, knowledge and experience to the attention of United Nations and related institutions, Governments and leaders of civil society and facilitates interactions and partnerships, focusing on justice, healing and human development, for the purposes of creating jobs, correcting economic and environmental imbalances and tackling the root causes of corruption, poverty and social exclusion. During the past four years, in a growing partnership with the Swiss Government, the Association has been fostering reconciliation in the Great Lakes region of Africa and the consolidation of peace in Burundi. Three other such partnerships were developed in 2008, with support from the Governments of Germany and Switzerland.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Senior officials of the Association often speak at and participate in United Nations and other diplomatic and academic events and international conferences on peace and non-violence. The Association's peace and reconciliation programmes have been strongly developed over the years in Burundi and Sierra Leone.

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

Association representatives participated in many conferences and meetings from 2006 to 2008, as described below:

During 2006: (a) High-level meetings with United Nations officials in March, in New York; (b) 59th annual conference for non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, in September; and (c) world premier screening of the film, "The Imam and the Pastor", produced as part of the Association's international training programme, for a high-level United Nations audience, in November.

During 2007: (a) 51st meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women in March, in New York; (b) Civil Society Development Forum, in June; (c) substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and side events, in July; and (d) Platform for Peace, in November, in Geneva.

During 2008: (a) Congo Geneva Committee Meeting, in January; (b) International Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, in September, in Geneva; (c) 61st Annual Department of Public Information Conference, in September, in Paris; (d) Hope-Sierra Leone

meeting in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, in November; (e) participated in high-level United Nations meetings and civil society forums, as well as seminars organized by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and conferences organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Department of Public Information; and (f) liaised between the Council of Europe and Association organizations.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

In 2006 the Geneva office conducted a survey among its various associations to evaluate their work vis-à-vis the Millennium Development Goals, and continued its work in Cambodia, Somalia and the Middle East, as well as facilitated interaction between army officials and rebel leaders, ministers and civil servants, and Muslims and Christians.

Goal 1: Farmer's Dialogue team helps farmers address root causes of poverty, such as in Kenya, where it transformed the lives of over 5,000 dairy farmers and in Costa Rica where it encouraged food production.

Goal 3: Its Women Creators of Peace encourages people to speak out against injustices and inequality in Australia, Fiji and Solomon Islands, among many other countries. Its Action for Life teaches Asian communities about working with others. Women participated in Clean Africa Campaign and the Caux Scholars' Programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Mozambique.

Goal 6: Creators of Peace empowers people in disease prevention and a former Caux scholar developed an HIV/AIDS prevention project on the China-Myanmar border. The Agenda for Reconciliation also fights disease. In August 2006, its Honest Dialogue for a Clean and Just Africa helped participants become responsible change agents in their national health-care structures.

Goal 7: Farmer's Dialogue worked with small-scale farmers in tree planting in Kenya, provided farmers with training in Zimbabwe and worked in water harvesting in India. The Caux Forum, in close collaboration with Clare Short, worked on climate change challenges, among others.

Goal 8: Farmer's Dialogue arranged contacts with members of the European Parliament. A Creators of Peace team member, originally from Somalia, started a school for training and introduction into Swedish society for immigrants and asylum-seekers. The Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy initiative fosters positive values and ethics in business, and social and environmental responsibility. The Caux Round Table helps senior business leaders to resolve international trade and business issues.

C. Activities in support of global principles

Information on training programmes and intercultural dialogue programmes, notably in Scandinavian countries, as well as in France, Kenya, Lebanon, the United Kingdom and the United States, can be found on the Association's website at www.iofc.org.

4. Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

A. Aims of the organization

The non-profit Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights focuses on three thematic areas: (a) economic, social and cultural rights; (b) women's rights for human rights; and (c) promotion of the rule of law, through training activities; information and opinion-building efforts; and the monitoring of human rights. Through seminars, debates and direct dialogue, it seeks to alert decision makers to human rights issues in Sweden or with regard to Swedish foreign and development assistance policy. Training is conducted in the form of seminars and tailor-made training programmes for NGOs, companies and central and local authorities; higher education courses on human rights and democracy are also provided. The Foundation is one of the initiators and organizers of the annual Human Rights Forum, the largest conference focusing on human rights in Nordic countries.

B. Significant changes in the organization

While the Foundation's aims and purposes remain the same, an amendment has been made in its statutes concerning wording in the text and the list of members. In 2008, the former trustees withdrew and were replaced by the Sensus Study Association, a Swedish NGO for adult education, education, culture and democracy. The change has no substantial implications for the vision and objectives of the Foundation.

II. Contributions to the work of the United Nations

The activities below are only those that were carried out by the Foundation itself. In its role as a donor to local human rights NGOs in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Foundation also supported activities which may relate to the United Nations and its work, but information on such activities should be covered in the separate reports of the respective organizations.

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

During 2006: An alternative report of the Swedish Government was prepared for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

During 2008: A side-event was organized at the meeting of the Human Rights Council, in September, in Geneva, namely a seminar on sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During 2005: (a) Cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, in March, in Stockholm; and (b) launching the idea of holding an international human rights action plan conference, with Swedish Government support; and meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in April, and the Swedish Minister for Human Rights, in September.

During 2006: Cooperated with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, in cooperation with Swedish Amnesty, in June, in Stockholm.

During 2007: Held workshop with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, in January, in Stockholm.

During 2008: Held a conference on the theme "rights work", in November.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

During 2006: (a) Goal 1: Seminar on the Millennium Development Goals and hunger was held in May, in Stockholm, in conjunction with the FoodFirst Information and Action Network; (b) a seminar on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in December, in Stockholm.

D. Promotion of Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Throughout the period, the Foundation promoted the adoption of an optional protocol to the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

5. Unitarian Universalist Association

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Unitarian Universalist Association has supported the United Nations and its missions since its foundation. It led the faith-based coalition for the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and the Executive Director of its United Nations Office is the chairperson of the Faith and Ethics Network for the Court, as well as the vice-chairperson of the Council of Organizations for UNA/USA. In holding senior positions in other such groups, it continues to play a leading role in the faith-based community in the United Nations, maintaining strong advocacy positions that influence United Nations policy on human rights, ending genocide, supporting the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.

A. Aims of the organization

The Association, a faith-based NGO operative in the United Nations system and international community, is financially supported by its membership, and acts as a voice for the religious denomination of Unitarian Universalists and as a venue for education, advocacy and outreach on United Nations-related issues, particularly among congregations in North America. It promotes the ideals of peace, liberty and justice for all; fosters sustainable development; and educates, advocates and actively works towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It works in support of peacekeeping operations in Darfur and around the world, and lobbies diplomatic missions to the Security Council to end genocide in Darfur.

B. Significant changes in the organization

Since establishing its internship programme in 2001, many young people have pursued careers in the United Nations system or in other related international organizations.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

During 2005: The United Nations Millennium Project released a report on investing in development, which recommended that developed countries deliver 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance. The Association launched a programme to elicit direct participation in the work of the Millennium Development Goals, and offered direct entry points to send AIDS orphans to primary school in the Manya Krobo district of Eastern Ghana, where as many as 1,400 children receive primary school education, in a two to one ratio of girls to boys. Its Action Alerts concerning loss of life and displacement of people in Darfur energized congregations to start a faxing campaign to respective government officials in seeking action on social

justice. In April 2005, its annual seminar on HIV/AIDS featured an Islamic scholar as keynote speaker.

During 2006: The Association's internship programme provided students from the high school to post-graduate levels with direct work experience in the United Nations. Its annual spring intergenerational seminar brought together Canadian and American participants for a three-day United Nations-focused conference.

During 2007: It continued its advocacy to end the fighting in Sudan, and partnered with the Save Darfur Coalition to protect all civilians, especially women and children, from civil conflict in Darfur. In partnership with the Permanent Mission of Thailand, it hosted an international intergenerational seminar in April 2007 on human trafficking. It also worked with the NGO Committee on Disarmament to support efforts to achieve global nuclear disarmament and drastic reductions in the manufacture and sale of small arms. Under its internship programme, an outstanding intern joined the International Labour Organization in Geneva, and another went on to study international development at Oxford University. At the end of 2007, it hired a new executive director who had worked for 25 years as a diplomat.

During 2008: For the Department of Public Information/NGO Human Rights Conference in Paris, the Association worked as conference caucus coordinator, workshop leader and co-moderator of a breakout session. It also partnered with the Permanent Mission of Canada to host its largest international intergenerational spring seminar to date, on building a culture of peace. It also advocated that all Governments pay their United Nations dues and peacekeeping assessments on time, in full and without condition.

6. Women International Democratic Federation

General, 1969

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization

The Women International Democratic Federation (WIDF) was founded in France in 1945, with the goal of fighting against all kinds of discrimination and for equality of rights and cooperation between peoples and nations for world peace. It comprises 209 national women's organizations from 103 countries: it defends their rights as mothers, workers and citizens, and rights of children to life, welfare, education and health. It also supports the equality of rights, women's access to work in all sectors with fair salaries, the elimination of racial discrimination and all kinds of violence.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

Representatives attended the following meetings in North America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East, all of which were related to women's solidarity and struggle for emancipation and equality.

During 2005: (a) Vth World Social Forum: in January, in Porto Alegre, Brazil; (b) forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, helping to revise the Beijing Platform for Action, in February and March, in New York; (c) seminar on cooperation of Portuguese-speaking countries in June, in Brasilia; (d) WIDF steering committee meeting, in September, in Luanda; (e) IInd SOS Africa, in September, in Luanda; (f) visited UNESCO in December, in Paris; and (g) visited Palestinian people, especially women, in December, in Ramallah, Palestine.

During 2006: (a) Attended the World Social Forum, in January, in Caracas; (b) Fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March, in New York; (c) WIDF steering committee meeting, and seminar on women's participation, in April, in Lisbon; (d) international seminar on trafficking in women, organized by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Population Fund, in July, in Salvador, Brazil; (e) WIDF steering committee meeting, and seminar on empowerment of women, in November, in Rome.

During 2007: (a) Attended World Social Forum, in January and February, in Nairobi; (b) national preparatory committee for XIVth Congress of WIDF, in February, in Caracas; (c) WIDF steering committee meeting, in April, in Caracas; (d) WIDF XIVth Congress on the theme of women of the whole world, which focused on the struggle of all women to gain access to work, and services, day-care centres, schools, and other social institutions; (e) social forum of the Common Market of the South, in which WIDF participated with affiliated organizations from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Equator, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), focusing on gender and race, in July, in Curitiba, Brazil;

(f) Xth Regional Conference for Women from Latin America and the Caribbean, in August, in Quito; (g) conference on working women organized by the World Federation of Trade Unions, in September, in Brussels.

During 2008: (a) fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in February and March, in New York; (b) United Nations International Conference on Palestine Refugees, in April, at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris; (c) seminar on trafficking in women, in partnership with Ibirapuera University, in May, in São Paulo, Brazil; (d) capacity-building in gender and the economy, for 30 Latin American leaders, in May, in WIDF America and Caribbean Regional Office, Havana; (e) WIDF steering committee, in July, in Brussels.